

National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 31 May 2010

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LOCAL HOSPITAL NETWORKS MUST BE LOCAL, NOT STATE-WIDE

There is mounting concern among people in rural, regional and remote areas that the Rudd Government's proposed Local Hospital Networks will not be local at all. The full text of the NRHA statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20lhns%20must%20be%20local.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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A STICKY ISSUE: OTITIS MEDIA AND INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Tuesday 25th May 8.00pm (AEST) and Friday 28th May 12.30pm - repeat broadcast

This program discusses the barriers to achieving better outcomes for children with otitis media, and proposes strategies to overcome them. It also discusses diagnosis, management, and treatment of the different stages/forms of otitis media. The particular focus is on Indigenous children, and the complications that arise in rural and remote areas.

More information about this program at http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=420

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LIVE STRONG: CLOSING THE GAP ON CHRONIC DISEASE DVD AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Live Strong is the latest of the half hour documentary style programs in the Rural Health Education Foundation's Strong Series. It is presented by Daniel Browning of ABC Radio National's Away! It emphasises the need for a comprehensive approach to the prevention, treatment and management of chronic disease. It also looks at Indigenous concepts of health and explores how these might shape more effective intervention programs.

The program showcases some of the particular projects that are making a difference: The Family Wellbeing Program at Yarrabah in Queensland; The Healthy Lifestyle Awareness Outreach Program, run by the Dharah Gibinj Aboriginal Medical Service in Casino NSW; and The Improved Primary Health Care Initiative at Mossman, Gorge Aboriginal Community in Queensland.

For more information http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=426

To order your free DVD visit the Rural Health Education Foundation's website <http://www.rhef.com.au> or contact the Foundation on (02) 62325480 or support@rhef.com.au

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From: Sally Stevenson <Sally.Stevenson@wdhs.net>
Subject: **Be part of the National Centre for Farmer Health Inaugural Conference 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health'**

Take this opportunity to be part of this dynamic conference:
* Promote the expertise in your organisation
* Learn about the latest developments in the sector
* Share the podium with international keynote speakers
* Participate in a conference that will highlight the diverse issues that affect farming communities.

The conference will take a cross sectoral approach and abstracts from diverse disciplines are being submitted. **DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY**
When: 11-13 October 2010
Where: Hamilton, Victoria
Contact: Sally Stevenson
P: (03) 5551 8587
E: sally.stevenson@wdhs.net

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From: Glenn Taylor <ceo@vnhp.org.au>
Subject: **Victorian Nurses Health Program inaugural 'Nursing & Midwifery Wellness Conference 2010'**

The VNHP was established in August 2006 to provide advice, support and case management to nurses, midwives and students of nursing facing the challenges presented by their

substance use. We expanded our scope in June 2007 due to a demand to support the needs of those with mental health concerns.

We work with individual nurses and midwives to provide confidential assessment, treatment and referral to a variety of services including counselling and financial support, case management, peer support groups and general support regarding industry issues.

We offer advice and guidance to managers and employers who suspect one of their employees is facing these challenges and needs advice regarding how best to support them.

The health impacts that alcohol and drug issues and mental health concerns have on our colleagues in the industry is of real concern to us. We work closely with nurses and midwives whose health is being adversely affected as a direct result of their substance use and or the stress and anxiety they are experiencing at the time.

On behalf of the VNHP I am pleased to invite you to join me in Melbourne for our 2010 Conference. The conference theme of Wellness was chosen to signify a state of being which we believe is something we should all allow ourselves time to reach, maintain and enjoy!

Nurses and midwives make up the majority of the health workforce. We are a valuable and vital resource in the healthcare system and we must do what we can to support and care for those who support and care for so many in our society.

The inaugural VNHP Nursing & Midwifery Wellness Conference is an opportunity for nurses, midwives and students to take time out of their busy schedule to participate in an event which has been designed to promote a healthy mind, body and soul.

This conference will feature an exciting and engaging program which will include identification of unhealthy workplace behaviours, exposure to strategies to best deal with these and an introduction to a range of innovative ideas and thinking. In addition it will be an opportunity to take some time out to simply recognise the importance of caring for you and you having some fun!

You'll hear from some of Australia's most engaging and informative speakers as well as having access to a range of activities and products which I'm sure you'll find engaging and beneficial.

With that said, September means Spring and there is no better place to be than Melbourne! So, why not take some time out of your busy schedule to join us on 10 September 2010. You could even make a long weekend of it, shopping and sightseeing in this beautiful city!

For more details on the conference and to register go to <http://www.vnhp.org.au>

Glenn Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Nurses Health Program

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FUNDING ROUND OPEN FOR MORE DIGITAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government has called for proposals to fund projects in regional Australia. These projects will develop service delivery solutions for education, health and emergency services.

A second round of funding under the Digital Regions Initiative has been announced which requires full applications by 14 July 2010. The program will foster partnerships between all levels of government to enhance the way essential services are delivered. Regional, rural and remote Australian communities will benefit from new use of innovative digital technology solutions.

The initiative has a focus on digitally enabled technology and how it can be used to dramatically improve the way patients are cared for in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. Examples include:

- * remote medical consultation, diagnosis and treatment
- * digital resources and services such as teleconferencing to enhance patient care
- * digital technologies to improve emergency and disaster response.

This initiative offers the health industry the opportunity to learn from, and work with, government entities at all levels, community groups and organisations to deliver services through innovative solutions. This includes collaboration across regional and state boundaries.

Eleven projects totalling \$32.9 million were offered funding under round one of the Digital Regions Initiative including an ambulance connect service for South Australia and chronic disease management systems in the Hunter New England region of NSW.

Further information on the Digital Regions Initiative is available online at <http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalregions> and to be included on a mailing list please send your details to digitalregions@dbcde.gov.au

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Integrating Services for a Healthy Start to Life

21-22 September 2010

Holiday Inn Esplanade, Darwin

Improving the wellbeing of Indigenous children is a national priority and the key to 'Closing The Gap' in a generation. Play your part at this year's Early Childhood Development in Indigenous Communities Conference which will showcase existing successful initiatives, sharing best practice for integrated services which help 'Close The Gap' on child disadvantage. It will also assess progress made under the National Partnership for Early Childhood Development and identify key priority areas to improve service delivery and community wellbeing.

Download brochure at

<http://www.thewebconsole.com/process/link.php?lId=831096&cId=1156791>

Register by 16 July 2010 and SAVE up to \$600
Call 1300 316 882 for more information
Email registration@criterionconferences.com

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NRHA on TWITTER

From <http://twitter.com/NRHAAlliance>

- Health reform and what it means for rural areas will be considered at 11th Conference
- 11th conference themes will include a focus on social and economic determinants
- From a friend: What's the point of consultation, learning, understanding if you can't 'backflip' - if it gets you closer to a worthy goal
Staff at NRHA busy meeting about themes and papers for the 11th Conference
- NSW Shires Association next week keen to know what health reforms will mean - as so many others
- One hopes the advice to the PM to do less hospitals doesn't inhibit the Cmlth from working w. States to get LHNs right!
- David Maher is right (Insiders): no point in policy debates/discourse unless it's OK for political leaders to change their minds
- Local Hospital Networks must be local: <http://bit.ly/9MrMXd>
- Confirmed: there will be remoteness loadings for new practice nurse program - plus 50pc for RA5; also, some of the MBS items will remain
- PM: "we will sort through with state govts - where LHNs go, where centred - plenty of time - We've got to get community opinion right"
- 'Royalties for Regions' catching on? Treasurer suggested mining revenues shd be directed to mng. regions (and new AWU ad. does too?)

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NRHA on YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RuralHealthAlliance>

Nurse TV: The Country's Voice
Public Seminar 2009

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NRHA Website (www.ruralhealth.org.au)

Highlights of the new section on the Alliance's website where you can keep in touch and provide your comments on e-health developments in rural and remote areas at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntCatId=45>

* The Alliance's position paper on the rural and remote implications of a national e-health strategy - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/publications/final%20e-health%20position%20paper.pdf>

* Contribute information and views - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14852&IntCatId=45>

* Follow the development of broadband and electronic communications in rural and remote communities - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14851&IntCatId=45>

* Help improve our understanding of progress towards shared individual electronic health records - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14853&IntCatId=45>

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E-HEALTH HAS HUGE POTENTIAL AND CHALLENGES FOR RURAL AUSTRALIA - RACGP

Australians living in rural and remote areas stand to benefit substantially from e-health. However, those areas also have the poorest infrastructure in Australia - particularly access to Broadband - presenting huge challenges for rural and remote GPs.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) says that e-health strategies need to take this into account and find out how rural and remote GPs can receive the resources and support they will need.

<http://www.racgp.org.au/media2010/37522>

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RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH PAPERS 1991 - 2009 DVD

Where can you easily access 3,189 references to the words 'rural health'?

All 3,189 documents can be found on the updated 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' DVD available when you join friends of the Alliance (see <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>)

You will also find 2,510 references to 'remote health', 526 references to 'health reform', 1,359 references to 'aboriginal health', and 315 references to 'oral health'.

What will you search for when you get your copy? The DVD contains the proceedings of all ten National Rural Health Conferences, all Alliance policy documents, annual reports, media releases and newsletters.

Don't forget friends of the Alliance also receive a discounted registration for the 11th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Perth, 13-16 March 2011.

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BLOOD TESTS WARNING FOR REGIONS AS PATHOLOGY INDUSTRY UNDER REVIEW - CHA

Small and not-for-profit pathology providers could soon be muscled out by just one or two mega-providers, leaving Australians with less choice and access to pathology services, Catholic Health Australia (CHA) warned today.

The prospect of further funding cuts, including the possibility of introducing a tendering process, could force the sector to contract even further, CHA warned in a submission to the Department of Health and Ageing's Pathology Funding Review.

<http://www.cha.org.au/site.php?id=168&media=65>

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Join friends of the Alliance

We would like to encourage you to join or renew your membership of friends of the Alliance for another year. The cost of membership is unchanged: \$44 (including GST) for an individual, \$165 for an organisation of less than 50 people, and \$330 for a large organisation. On joining you will receive a friends membership pack including a certificate, the Rural and Remote Health Papers CD, lapel pin, fact sheets and the latest annual report. A membership form can also be found on the friends page of the Alliance website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>

The NRHA values the input of friends and finds its advice and contributions invaluable to the work of the Alliance.

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STUDY OF RURAL CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS' ETHICS - IMPLICATIONS FOR AUSTRALIA

Research about the professional ethical issues faced by psychologists working in rural Canada has implications for psychologists in rural and remote Australia, according to a Charles Sturt University (CSU) PhD graduate.

Dr Judi Malone, a psychologist from Alberta, Canada, who studied in the School of Psychology at CSU in Bathurst, undertook an in-depth interpretive study consisting of a series of three interviews with each of 20 practising psychologists from across rural Canada to explore their experience of professional ethical issues.

"The context and ethical challenges of rural psychological practice are not often explored, and the existing literature that I reviewed suggests that ethical dilemmas typically arise in relation to overlapping relationships, community pressure, generalist practice, interdisciplinary collaboration, and professional development. These are likely to be as relevant to psychologists working in rural Australia as they are to their Canadian counterparts.

<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/latestnews/international.cfm?itemID=A4DF2D53CCC0324CF59BFE4C327D0574&printtemplate=release>

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MARCH EDITION OF PARTYLINE OUT NOW

Partyline 38 is available on the National Rural Health Alliance website.

This edition was produced in conjunction with the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) at the ANU and contains two feature articles from APHCRI. It has a focus on health reform and includes responses to health announcements from both the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader. Two remote area nurses reflect on the challenges faced by their profession, and some RAMUS scholars report on their rural placements. There are

articles on dental health, regional development, rural GP locum schemes, and an e-health update, as well as information on resources and news on rural health. To contribute to future editions (article, photo, letter to the editor, poem), contact partyline@ruralhealth.org.au Back copies are available on the Partyline page of the website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6>

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CSU RESEARCH AIMS TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Research by a Charles Sturt University (CSU) academic has identified 15 recommendations to address a range of shortcomings in the professional development of health services managers in rural New South Wales (NSW). Dr Louise Brown, who recently graduated with a PhD in Health Services Management from the School of Biomedical Sciences at CSU in Bathurst, said her study investigated the work-life experiences of rural NSW health services managers in order to develop a greater understanding of the link between manager practices and their education, learning and professional development needs.

<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/latestnews/Charles%20Sturt%20University.cfm?itemID=944F482DD0C8ED56DC7B8CDAA075A5C1&printtemplate=release>

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AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF RURAL HEALTH

The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals. Get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health! The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health.

Manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> Manuscript Central or posted to AJRH. The Australian Journal of Rural Health is published on behalf of the National Rural Health Alliance by Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd 155 Cremorne Street Richmond Vic. 3121 Tel: +61 (0)3 9274 3100 Fax: +61 (0)3 9274 3101 E-mail: melbourne@johnwiley.com.au

April 2010 issue now available. Contents include:

- Editorial - Health reform and the immediate needs of rural and remote communities
- Policy Review - A brief history of 'Health reform' in Australia, 2007-2009
- Viewpoint - Charting the future course of rural health and remote health in Australia: Why we need theory
- Original Articles
 - From rural beginnings to statewide roll-out: Evaluation of facilitator training for a group-based diabetes prevention program
 - Urban-rural differences in psychiatric rehabilitation outcomes
 - Evaluation of a mobile screening service for abdominal aortic aneurysm in Broken Hill, a remote regional centre in far western NSW
 - Availability of antidotes for the treatment of acute poisoning in Queensland public hospitals
- Short Reports

Rural Birth Index for Australia?

Medical students out of town but not out of touch: Use of personal digital assistants to improve access to clinical information and enhance learning at the point of care in rural and remote Australia

Factors to consider when starting up a videoconference medical oncology outreach clinic

Further information at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

(From <http://www.gigaalert.com/>

Centre for Rural Health, CRH

The Centre for Rural Health (CRH) is based at the Howard College campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

<http://crh.ukzn.ac.za/>

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LIFELINE INFORMATION SERVICE

The Lifeline Information Service provides access to a variety of self-help tool kits with information about issues such as mental illness, depression, suicide prevention, and more. These resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health and are available online at <http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice>

A limited number of printed tool kits are available on request by emailing infoservice@lifeline.org.au. For more information please visit <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

If you are in need of 24 hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Breast Cancer Summit in Darwin: Supporting Sisters and Aunties to Survive!

More than 50 women representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as far afield as Alice Springs and the Tiwi Islands, along with Aboriginal Health Workers and other health professionals, are expected to attend a breast cancer summit in Darwin on 26 May. The Supporting Sisters and Aunties to Survive! Summit, has been funded by the Rudd Government under a \$2.7 million Supporting Women in Rural Areas Diagnosed with Breast Cancer Program. The Supporting Women in Rural Areas Diagnosed with Breast Cancer Program complements other Australian Government breast cancer initiatives.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws049.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=5>

National Workshops to Assist Indigenous Health Bodies a Success

Workshops held across Australia supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations to improve the quality of their health care services wrapped up this week. The publications have been developed in close consultation with key accreditation and sector

representatives, including individual Aboriginal health organisations in all states and territories, and the peak body for these organisations, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation,' he said. The Interpretive Guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services - Quality Improvement Council (QIC) Health and Community Services Standards (6th Edition) - which interprets QIC accreditation standards as they apply to ACCHOs.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws047.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=5>

Indigenous Women's Health Strategy Welcomed

Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin and Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, have welcomed the release of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Strategy. The strategy, developed by the Australian Women's Health Network (AWHN) Aboriginal Women's Talking Circle, seeks to address the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women's health. The AWHN received \$99,450 from the Rudd Government to support the Aboriginal Women's Talking Circle to consult with more than 400 Indigenous women across Australia on health issues, gaps, and barriers to services for the strategy.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws048.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=5>

More digital services for rural, regional and remote Australia

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, has called for a second round of proposals to deliver innovative digital services for communities in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia.

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2010/049

Eye Care Boost for 106 Remote Indigenous Communities

Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, has announced new or expanded services will be delivered to 106 rural and remote Indigenous communities under a \$6.5 million boost to an Australian Government eye health program. The report, Provision of Indigenous Eye Health Services, was prepared by Professor Hugh Taylor and Emma Stanford of the Indigenous Eye Health Unit, Melbourne School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne. Mr Snowdon said the report built upon the 2009 National Indigenous Eye Health Survey, that was partly funded by the Australian Government and which had also been undertaken by the Indigenous Eye Unit.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws044.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=5>

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AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER ONLINE

The Australian Organ Donor Register is Australia's only national organ and tissue donor register and serves as a lifeline to the people on the organ transplant waiting lists. Register online at <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp> to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

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ABS RELEASE

The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010 (ABS 4704.0)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population comprises around 2.5% of the Australian population and is relatively young. Indigenous Australians have lower life expectancy than non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language and culture is being maintained. Socioeconomic outcomes for Indigenous Australians continue to improve, but remain below those for non-Indigenous Australians. Educational attainment among Indigenous Australians continues to increase. Higher levels of educational attainment are associated with improved health outcomes. Indigenous Australians have poorer self-assessed health and were more likely to report higher levels of psychological distress than non-Indigenous Australians. Both tobacco smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are major health risk factors. Latest results show a decline in Indigenous smoking rates, while alcohol consumption remains steady. There are a number of positive findings in relation to maternal health and factors affecting childhood development including high rates of breastfeeding and physical activity among Indigenous children.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4704.0?OpenDocument>

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BUSH SUPPORT SERVICES (formerly Bush Crisis Line) - 1800 805 391

The Bush Support Services Line is a 24 hour confidential telephone support service for workers, and their families, who work in health related services in remote and isolated situations. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information:

<http://www.bss.crana.org.au>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

(See <http://www.abc.net.au/health/healthyliving/yourhealth/ruralregionalhealth/>)

Rural Alliance wants regional communities protected

The NSW Farmers' Association and some key rural organisations are meeting in Sydney today to thrash out their priorities for the next state election and the budget coming up in June.

Health services are a major concern.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/nsw/content/2010/05/s2911106.htm>

Urgent need for more Indigenous health workers

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/03/05/2838237.htm>

Changes to mental health funding

The changes in the federal budget to mental health services will be disproportionately felt in rural areas. There are fears Medicare rebates will no longer be available for visits to social workers or occupational therapists.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/content/2010/s2907632.htm>

Life outdoors hasn't made farmers healthy

A rural health study has found that farmer health is worse than the Australian average.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201005/s2907607.htm>

Doctors say scrapping e-health would hurt rural patients

Rural doctors say the Federal Opposition's plan to abolish electronic health reforms will be a big loss for patients in regional areas.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201005/s2904653.htm>

Indigenous eye care

Indigenous eye health remains a national disgrace, according to Professor Hugh Taylor, who holds the Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne. He says 94 per cent of vision loss associated with eye disease in Indigenous communities is either preventable or treatable.
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/995571/614869/17952/0/>

Aboriginal health group slams Abbott over e-health

A Northern Territory Aboriginal health alliance has called on the Federal Opposition to reconsider its election policy to abolish an electronic patient information system.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/05/20/2904819.htm>

Getting doctors from city to bush

There is disappointment from regional WA that the latest Federal Budget does not include ways to change the discrepancy between health services available in capital cities and those in small country towns.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/regions/content/201005/2902499.htm>

AMA tour to improve Indigenous health

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/05/15/2900502.htm>

Four hour rule too hard for country hospitals: doctors

The Rural Doctors Association says a lack of resources may prevent regional hospitals from meeting the State Government's four hour rule.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/05/17/2901841.htm>

Beyond Blue shares concerns about medicare mental health changes

Beyond Blue is backing claims that country patients will be left in limbo once Medicare changes are made in July.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201005/s2899503.htm>

Concerns about scrapping of Medicare rebate for mental health

Social workers are warning budget cuts will leave rural people suffering depression with no access to help.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201005/s2898403.htm>

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RDAА NEWS

RDASA media release -- Doctors welcome federal cancer funding for rural South Australia

18 May 2010

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDASA%20media%20release%20--%20Cancer%20funding%20for%20country%20SA%20--%20May%202010.pdf

Media reminder -- SBS TV to put outback heroines...and the rewards of rural medical careers...in front of national audience

26 May 2010

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Media%20reminder%20--%20Outback%20Healers%20and%20Heroines%20--%20broadcast%20on%20SBS%20TV%20--%20May%202010.pdf

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GET REGIONAL

Get Regional is the new information and referral service for people living and working throughout country Australia. Engaging and interacting rural, regional and remote communities, via dynamic interactive technologies, to ensure a more sustainable future for the bush. The most up-to-date and independent information service with a wide range of broadcast distribution services.

<http://getregional.com.au>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

Young Aboriginal adults have 2-11 times higher adverse clinical oral health outcomes than young Australian adults generally, according to research published in the Medical Journal of Australia. AMA media release at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5609>

Rates of severe pneumonia in hospitalised Northern Territory Indigenous children are among the highest reported in the world, and reducing this burden of disease should be a national health priority, according to research published in the Medical Journal of Australia. AMA media release at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5608>

Income management in Northern Territory may not lead to healthier purchases, less tobacco sales. AMA media release at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5611>

The intended health outcomes of the Northern Territory intervention - improved health and wellbeing and, ultimately, longer life expectancy - are unlikely to be fully achieved, according to research published in the Medical Journal of Australia. AMA media release at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5610>

Current issue: 17 May 2010

- After the Intervention
- Health impacts of the Northern Territory intervention
- Impact of income management on store sales in the Northern Territory

- The Northern Territory Emergency Response and cannabis use in remote Indigenous communities
- Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition - Healing our communities, healing ourselves
- Defining the Gap
- Clinical oral health outcomes in young Australian Aboriginal adults compared with national-level counterparts
- Incidence of type 2 diabetes in two Indigenous Australian populations: a 6-year follow-up study
- Mental disorders due to substance use and cardiovascular disease risk in Aboriginal adults
- Two nations: racial disparities in bloodstream infections recorded at Alice Springs Hospital, central Australia, 2001-2005
- Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Art Exhibition - Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana 2010
- At the Frontline
- An education intervention for childhood asthma by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers: a randomised controlled trial
- Acute rheumatic fever in Indigenous people in North Queensland: some good news at last?
- Hospitalisation of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory for lower respiratory illness in the first year of life
- Rates of radiologically confirmed pneumonia as defined by the World Health Organization in Northern Territory Indigenous children
- Using child health checks to assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity among urban Indigenous children
- Assessing the quality of maternal health care in Indigenous primary care services
- Society, Culture and Health
- Enduring dilemmas of Indigenous health
- "You're always hearing about the stats ... death happens so often": new perspectives on barriers to Aboriginal participation in cardiac rehabilitation
- Emerging themes in Aboriginal child and adolescent mental health: findings from a qualitative study in Sydney, New South Wales
- Early impressions of paediatric health in Alice Springs: trying to see beyond the gaps
- "Just ask!" Identifying as Indigenous in mainstream general practice settings: a consumer perspective
- The Research Agenda
- Doing more to improve Indigenous health: the new NHMRC Road Map
- Strategies for increasing high-quality intervention research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health: views of leading researchers
- Pandemic Influenza
- Disproportionate impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza on Indigenous people in the Top End of Australia's Northern Territory
- Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in an urban Aboriginal medical service
- Book Review - The politics of suffering. Indigenous Australia and the end of liberal consensus

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2nd Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium

The Alliance is one of four organisations auspicing the 2nd Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium to be held in Brisbane, 9-11 June 2010. Further information: <http://rrhss.ruralhealth.org.au/>

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RDAQ 2010

11 - 13 June 2010

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Contact: Sarah Smith / 07 3105 7800 / ssmith@healthworkforce.com.au

This conference is a unique opportunity for all healthcare professionals to access key politicians and decision makers and to have their say on the future of rural health.

Sarah Smith

Project Officer - MET Events

Health Workforce Queensland

Postal: GPO Box 2523, Brisbane Q 4001

Office: Level 1, 410 Queen Street Brisbane 4000

Ph: 07 3105 7800 Fax: 07 3105 7801

Email: ssmith@healthworkforce.com.au

Web: <http://www.healthworkforce.com.au>

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Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2010): Listening, Learning and Leading.

16 - 18 June 2010

Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference aims to assist and contribute to further develop the capacity of those working to address the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs in meaningful and practical ways. The Conference will also showcase and celebrate the quiet efforts and achievements of those striving to improve the health and well being of our communities. It is a time for listening, learning and leading the way on what can be accomplished on this important health and social issue within Australia.

To view flyer and details go to <http://www.nidaconference.com.au/>

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Australia's Health 2010 Conference

22-23 June 2010

National Convention Centre, 27-31 Constitution Ave, Canberra

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/index.cfm#ah10>

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Primary Health Care Research and Health Reform: Improving Care Conference

Wednesday 30 June 2010 - Friday 2 July 2010

Darwin, Northern Territory

Come to Darwin for the 2010 PHC Research Conference - Primary health care research and health reform: Improving care, and participate in one of the premier primary health care

networking events.

This conference is a must for anyone with an interest in primary health care research, evaluation and development. It will provide essential opportunities for researchers, decision makers, practitioners and consumers to share ideas, debate critical PHC matters, form collaborations and network with speakers and other delegates.

The program is an exciting blend of plenary sessions, workshops, symposia, poster and paper sessions, and influential presenters from both Australia and overseas. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, it is supported by both the Australian Association of Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) and the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI, based at ANU).

Presented by PHCRIS

Event website: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2010>

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NAIDOC Week

4-11 July 2010

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/index.aspx>

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National University Rural Health Conference

NURHC '10 will be held in Alice Springs from 15-17 July. With Ernie Dingo confirmed as our conference MC, over 400 nursing, allied health and medical members attending, inspiring speakers, student presentations, interactive workshops and several awards for members, there is no better place to be this July. More information at

<http://www.nrhsn.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=166567>

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2010 Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) Conference

Alice Springs, 27-29 July

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference>

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Assistive Technology: The tip of the iceberg

Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association National Conference
Tuesday 10 - Friday 13 August 2010, Hobart, TAS

On behalf of the conference organising committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2010 ARATA National Conference, AT: The tip of the iceberg, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, from Tuesday 10- Friday 13 August 2010. With the conference being held in Hobart, Tasmania, the home of the ice breakers heading to the Antarctic, papers will similarly crack through the surface to look more deeply at what lies beneath, explore new frontiers and meet the challenges of the pitfalls and crevasses. There will be an emphasis on thinking beyond the prescription of equipment to look more deeply at the issues of funding, training and support for users and their support personnel, and helping consumers to have the endurance to persevere with their equipment, despite the obstacles. Like the Antarctic explorers, there will be a focus on research and discovery - showcasing new products and ensuring ease in the use

of equipment by capitalising on universal design and mainstream products. 'ARATAS 2010' will be full of new territory to explore, with the promise of many adventures to come in the field of Assistive Technology.

Karen Frost & Christopher Bryg

Convenors, ARATAS 2010

For information about ARATA, and the 2010 conference, visit the website at <http://www.e-bility.com/arata/conf.php>

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9th World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference

Hosted by the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

22-25 August 2010

Darwin

The corporation welcomes all people who are interested in, or concerned with, Indigenous women and wellness to get involved in the conference and particularly encourages the participation of Indigenous women. More information from Jodie Farrow, Community Health Engagement/Health Promotions Officer, Danila Dilba Health Service, email

jodie.farrow@daniladilba.org.au T: 08 89435100, F: 08 89435101, W:

<http://www.daniladilba.org.au>

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Healing Our Spirit 2010

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and researchers are advised to start planning now for Healing Our Spirit Worldwide The Sixth Gathering, which is due to take place on the island of Honolulu in Hawaii from 3 to 10 September 2010. The goal of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW) is to celebrate the diverse and unique cultural strengths, knowledge and talents of Indigenous peoples around the world, with a particular focus on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health is a proud supporter of and committed participant in the gathering, which will be hosted by native Hawaiian healthcare organisation Papa Ola Lōkahi (<http://www.papaolalokahi.org>).

For more information:

Maria Halkitis - Contract Manager, 08 8943 5020

Mick Gooda - CEO, 0409 688 403

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AAQHC 2010 Registration Now Open!

The Organising Committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 8th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care to be held in Perth from 6 - 8 September 2010.

The Conference is the premier event on the Australasian Safety and Quality in Health Care calendar and will appeal to all clinicians and managers from acute hospitals, aged care and primary care who are interested in providing safe, quality care to patients and their families. Register now to secure your attendance and take advantage of the early bird rate!

For further information and to view the provisional program please visit the Conference website at <http://aaqhc2010.cmail2.com/t/y/l/oudjrk/udityupl/d>

Contact Details:

8th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Managed by arinex pty limited
GPO Box 128, (Level 10, 51 Druitt Street)
Sydney NSW 2001, Australia
Phone: +61 2 9265 0700
Email: aaqhc2010@arinex.com.au

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14th Chronic Diseases Network (CDN) Conference - 'Health Literacy: Opening doors to health and wellbeing'

Darwin, 9-10 September

The 2010 CDN conference will focus on the role and impact of health literacy on the prevention and management of chronic conditions and its importance in achieving positive health outcomes. More information from CDN, T: (08) 8922 8280, E:

chronicdiseasesnetwork@nt.gov.au

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ACSA Twenty 10

ACSA's annual National Conference. "Explore the possibilities" will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel on Hobart's waterfront from Sunday September 19 to Wednesday September 22. The Twenty 10 National Conference is the most important aged and community care event this year and we want you to be part of the action.

In addition to traditional presentations, this year's conference will also include a new concept - an Ideas Market Place. Projects, ideas and innovations suited to PowerPoint presentations displayed on designated screens, will run throughout the Conference. The Ideas Market Place will allow delegates to gather for informal discussions on the presentations displayed. More details, including how to make a submission for the Ideas Market Place, will be provided in the coming weeks.

For any queries contact Conference Design at (03) 6231 2999

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Creating Futures 2010 - Harnessing creativity and social enterprise for mental health and wellbeing

Cairns, Far North Queensland

20~24 September, 2010

Creating Futures 2010, auspiced by the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland, is the fourth conference in a series in which the populations of interest are indigenous peoples from Australia, New Zealand, North America and the Pacific Islands and people living and working in rural and remote areas.

As with the previous Creating Futures conferences, there will be a focus on the social determinants of health. Creating Futures 2010 will also highlight creativity and social entrepreneurial approaches, posing the question: How is it possible to harness the creativity and energy of the social enterprise sector to address the underpinning social determinants of mental health and wellbeing in the populations of interest?

A National Workshop about Me and My Community, a Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland project aimed at developing leadership capacity and mental health and wellbeing knowledge among young people and women working in the farming sector in rural and remote Australia, will be held on Friday, 24 September. This will follow a dedicated stream of presentations addressing the impact of environmental and other challenges impacting on rural and remote communities on 23 September.

For more information visit the website at <http://www.crrmhq.com.au>

Invitation to attend

Creating Futures convenor, Professor Ernest Hunter, and the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland cordially invite you to attend this exciting, inspiring event that will develop your professional practice and challenge your thinking about mental health and wellbeing in the 21st century. If you wish to be included in the mailing list to receive the advance program and registration brochure, please email your postal address with "Creating Futures" in the subject line to info@conorg.com.au

For further details regarding the meeting, please contact:

The Conference Organiser Pty Ltd
146 Leicester Street
Carlton, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3053
Phone: Australia: (03) 9349 2220
Email: info@conorg.com.au
Fax: Australia: (03) 9349 2230
<http://www.conorg.com.au>

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Rural Medicine Australia 2010

Scientific forum and conference
Rural Medicine Australia 2010, the national conference of ACRRM and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, will this year include a scientific forum. The theme for this important gathering of doctors and others passionate about rural and remote medicine is 'Bringing it all together'. The venue is Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart. RMA 2010 will run from 22 to 24 October. Almost 300 people attended Rural Medicine Australia 2009 in Melbourne. We will shortly be calling for abstracts and launching the RMA 2010 website with registration and accommodation information.

<http://www.acrrm.org.au/news/rural-medicine-australia-2010-0>

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Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

2010 Conference, in Canberra, on 28 November-1 December. Under the theme, Building on the Capital, the conference will feature international and national speakers with a focus on new treatment, prevention and policy in the areas of drug and alcohol research. Symposia and abstracts that address all aspects of licit and illicit drug use/misuse are invited. For more information, <http://www.apsadconference.com.au/> or apsad@wsm.com.au

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The **11th National Rural Health Conference** will be held in Perth on 13-16 March 2011.

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is published fortnightly. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to grovesc@winshop.com.au). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the e-forum.

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. As such, the Alliance does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the views of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au

Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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Media Release

20 May 2010

Local Hospital Networks must be local, not state-wide

There is mounting concern among people in rural, regional and remote areas that the Rudd Government's proposed Local Hospital Networks will not be local at all.

It stems from unconfirmed reports which suggest that the Northern Territory and Tasmania will be served by single, state-wide Local Hospital Networks based in Darwin and Hobart, without due consideration of the views of people who live in the other regions.

"If the States and Territories ride roughshod over regional considerations in respect to LHNs, there will be growing concern about the Commonwealth's capacity to deliver on other important matters relating to public hospitals," says Dr Jenny May, Chair of the 29-member strong National Rural Health Alliance.

"People in rural, regional and remote areas must insist that the Commonwealth Government's agreements with the States and Territories do not result in individual jurisdictions subverting the principle that underlies the role and purpose of the LHNs."

Dr May said it would be "discouraging" if establishment of the LHNs failed to take account of the guidelines which people have agreed should be integral to their work - including the capacity to solve cross-border challenges.

"It has been clear from the beginning that the whole purpose of Local Hospital Networks can only be met if they are based on communities of interest and are small enough for local people - including clinicians and local cultural groups - to have genuine engagement with them. Where travel and health services are concerned, there is no way that Alice Springs is in a real community of interest with Darwin, nor Launceston with Hobart," Dr May said.

Member Bodies of the Alliance believe the centralisation of hospital services in Darwin and Hobart will not only cause major logistical problems for people seeking health services, it will also send negative messages about what can be expected from the other major health reforms with which Commonwealth, States and Territories have been grappling for months.

Most important among these are the commitment to maintain and improve smaller hospitals through block grants and to recognise the Community Service Obligations they have in rural, regional and remote communities.
